

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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## GET YOUR STOCK REPORT IN PROMPTLY

Canners who are cooperating in the quarterly stock survey conducted by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce will receive, during the week of September 28, schedules on which to report their stocks on October 1 of corn, peas, tomatoes, wax and green beans, peaches, pears, pineapple, and salmon.

The first survey, covering stocks as of July 1, was completed and results announced by July 25. More prompt return of schedules for the second survey will enable the Foodstuffs Division to announce the results in a shorter time. *It is entirely feasible to get the figures out by the middle of October, if canners and distributors do not delay their return of schedules.*

Stocks of each product are to be reported by canners and distributors in total number of cases of all sizes of containers.

The figures when published will show the total number of cases of each product held respectively by canners and distributors who have furnished figures for both July 1 and October 1.

Under present business conditions both canners and distributors have great need for information as to status of stocks. If they give prompt cooperation in this second survey, they will get the information at an early date.

## THE HOME CANNING CAMPAIGN

During the past week President F. A. Harding addressed the following letter to Mr. Fred C. Croxton, Assistant Director of the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief:

Since the inauguration of your Committee's campaign to promote the canning of surplus fruits and vegetables in order to have available supplies of such foods for distribution to the needy unemployed, the Association has received an increasing number of inquiries from persons interested in this campaign concerning canning methods that should be followed to insure safe and wholesome products.

These inquiries, combined with the experience of the Association during a period of more than 18 years' scientific research on canning processes, furnish ample evidence that the Committee's project involves possibilities of grave dangers to which the Association, from a sense of public duty, should invite your attention.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture recently revised its bulletin on home canning and embodied in that bulletin recommendations on canning processes which correspond to scientifically established processes followed by commercial canners to insure the wholesomeness of the canned product. It is evident from inquiries the Association has received, and from literature circulated in connection with the campaign, that some of those in charge of local projects are uninformed as to what constitute safe processes, and that methods are being used that scientific research has demonstrated are inadequate and unsafe.

In a campaign dependent largely upon volunteer work, it is inevitable that both assistance in and direction of the work in some places should fall into the hands of those who, though willing, are uninformed. I need refer to but one recommendation of the Department of Agriculture to illustrate this point. The Department of Agriculture makes specific recommendation as to non-acid fruits and vegetables that "if no pressure canner is available, it is recommended that methods of preservation other than canning be used." This recommendation is equally applicable to meats, fish and poultry. Disregard of this recommendation, either because the local committees are unfamiliar with it or because pressure cookers are unavailable, involves the very serious danger of botulism.

Your Committee undoubtedly does not desire that local committees should sacrifice safety in order to obtain a greater supply of home canned foods for distribution to the needy. Adherence to the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture and use of the canning processes that are necessary to insure wholesome products may, and probably will, reduce the amount and increase the cost of foods put up by the local committees. Every consideration of public interest requires that safety be made paramount.

In this connection I might point out to you that there is this year an adequate production of commercially canned foods in practically all staple and special lines, and that under present business conditions these are being sold at or below cost of large-scale production. Moreover, considerable quantities of these foods could probably be made available at or about factory cost, plus transportation to the points where they may be needed. The canning industry does not wish to profit from the food needs of the unemployed, and will be as ready as other agencies to do its part toward relief.

That the action of the Association in calling attention to this matter is well advised is indicated by the fact that the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture also issued during the week a press statement reading in part as follows:

Assistance for housewives and welfare organizations which are centering their attention right now on saving the surplus fruit and vegetable crops is offered by the Bureau of Home Economics and other bureaus of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the form of information on canning, preserving, pickling, drying, and storing practically all native fruits and vegetables.

With the passing of the day when each family had to make most of the preparations itself for the winter's supply of food, the practice of home canning and preserving has gradually declined. During emergencies such

as the World War and in the present economic situation there is a revival of individual and community effort to put away foods, while they are plenty, for winter use. Encouraged by large crops and attendant low costs many persons are working to save the surplus, not only for their own personal use, but for relief distribution.

Recipes for the various methods of food preservation were formerly a matter of great family pride. But, with the shift of commercially prepared foods, the home has lost much of this sort of knowledge so that this season when this "save the surplus" campaign got underway, canners had to seek outside information. Moreover the "surplus savers" are canning kinds of fruits and vegetables which they have never canned before. And for some of these there has been little or no satisfactory canning information in the homes.

In this category are included the non-acid vegetables, such as peas, beans, corn, okra, and squash, which are difficult to sterilize. They require temperatures of about 240° to 250° F. that can be obtained only in a steam pressure cooker. It is dangerous and it is wasteful to take chances on inadequately sterilized canned foods. Canned goods that spoil waste the food itself, and also the labor and expense of canning. Spoiled food is dangerous. The saving of non-acid vegetables by canning should not be undertaken, the bureau says, unless they can be obtained fresh and held under cold storage if canning is to be delayed even briefly. Many of these vegetables, however, can be dried successfully and some may be preserved by salting.

The Bureau of Home Economics has available to the public a bulletin on canning fruits and vegetables at home, which was revised this year and which contains detailed information on the various methods of home canning. Other publications of the bureau discuss jelly making; pickles and relishes; jellied grapefruit and lemon peel; jams and preserves; and some special ways of utilizing peaches.

#### **TARIFF HEARINGS ON FRESH VEGETABLES ANNOUNCED**

Dates for nine hearings on fresh vegetables and pineapples, in investigations instituted for the purposes of section 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930, have been announced by the Tariff Commission as follows: October 19, fresh tomatoes; October 20, green peppers and green peas; October 21, snap, or string beans, lima beans (fresh) and okra; October 22, eggplant and cucumbers; October 23, fresh pineapples. The hearings will be held at the offices of the Commission in Washington, D. C., opening at 10 o'clock a. m. on the respective dates. The Commission also announced the limitation of the investigation concerning lima beans to include only lima beans, green or unripe.

#### **FORECASTS ON CANNING CROPS**

Further reduction in the prospective crop of tomatoes for manufacture is indicated by the forecast of the Department of Agriculture based upon condition as of September 15. The crop is now forecast at 41 per cent below the estimated production in 1930. On the other hand the production of sweet corn is now forecast at 12 per cent larger than in 1930. The forecast based

on August 15 condition indicated that the tomato crop would be 35.4 per cent below that of last year and that the corn crop would be 11 per cent greater. Following are the estimates as announced by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates:

#### Corn

Based upon reported conditions and probable yield per acre on September 15, the forecast of production of sweet corn for canning is 12 per cent larger than the estimated production in 1930 and about 4 per cent above the five-year average production for the period 1925-1929. The indicated production is 739,800 tons compared with 660,800 tons produced in 1930 and with an average production of 708,700 tons for the five years preceding 1930.

Crop prospects on September 15 show a slight improvement in total production over those of September 1. Yields in Maine, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota are a little higher than earlier expectations. In Maryland and Pennsylvania, however, tonnage yields per acre are somewhat smaller than previously indicated, due to many poorly filled ears.

The table below gives, by states, the estimates of planted acreage, indicated yield per acre and forecast of production in 1931 compared with harvested acreage, yield per acre and estimated production in 1930.

| State               | Acreage       |               | Yield Per Acre<br>Indicated |              | Production<br>Forecast |              |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                     | 1930<br>Acres | 1931<br>Acres | 1930<br>Tons                | 1931<br>Tons | 1930<br>Tons           | 1931<br>Tons |
| Maine .....         | 13,200        | 10,700        | 3.7                         | 3.2          | 48,800                 | 34,200       |
| New Hampshire ..... | 1,050         | 950           | 3.0                         | 2.6          | 3,200                  | 2,500        |
| Vermont .....       | 2,100         | 1,330         | 2.3                         | 2.6          | 4,800                  | 3,500        |
| New York .....      | 23,000        | 17,000        | 1.3                         | 2.4          | 29,900                 | 42,200       |
| Pennsylvania ..     | 6,300         | 5,000         | .8                          | 1.9          | 5,000                  | 10,600       |
| Ohio .....          | 32,500        | 30,600        | 1.1                         | 2.4          | 35,800                 | 73,400       |
| Indiana .....       | 43,500        | 37,200        | 1.3                         | 2.0          | 56,600                 | 74,400       |
| Illinois .....      | 72,000        | 68,300        | 2.0                         | 2.3          | 144,000                | 157,100      |
| Michigan .....      | 7,300         | 8,200         | .6                          | .6           | 4,400                  | 4,900        |
| Wisconsin .....     | 13,000        | 13,000        | 2.4                         | 1.8          | 31,200                 | 23,400       |
| Minnesota .....     | 54,000        | 46,200        | 2.4                         | 2.1          | 129,600                | 97,000       |
| Iowa .....          | 55,000        | 51,200        | 2.0                         | 2.2          | 110,000                | 112,000      |
| Nebraska .....      | 8,000         | 7,800         | 1.4                         | 1.4          | 11,200                 | 10,900       |
| Delaware .....      | 3,630         | 3,100         | 1.8                         | 2.4          | 6,500                  | 7,400        |
| Maryland .....      | 34,000        | 39,700        | .7                          | 1.7          | 23,800                 | 67,500       |
| Tennessee .....     | 3,400         | 3,400         | 2.0                         | 2.8          | 6,800                  | 9,500        |
| Other states *      | 3,830         | 3,780         | 2.4                         | 2.3          | 9,200                  | 8,700        |
| U. S. total ..      | 375,810       | 348,000       | 1.70                        | 2.12         | 660,800                | 739,800      |

\* "Other states" include Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming.

#### Cucumbers

According to reported condition and probable yield per acre on September 15, there is very little change in the probable total production of cucumbers for pickles from that indicated on September 1. The forecast of production for 1931 is nearly 26 per cent below the estimated production in 1930. A total of 5,637,000 bushels is now indicated for 1931 compared with 7,596,000 bushels in 1930, and with a five-year average production of 4,634,000 bushels for the period 1925-1929.

The indicated average yield per acre is comparable with the good yield of last year and is about 11 per cent above the average for the five-year period preceding 1930. Harvesting and salting are now practically completed.

A report on revised acreage, preliminary estimate of production, and stocks in tanks and barrels as of October 1, will be issued about October 22.

The table below gives, by states, the estimated acreage, indicated yield per acre and forecast of production for 1931 compared with harvested acreage, yield per acre and estimated production in 1930.

| State                | Acreage      |              | Yield per Acre Indicated |            | Production Forecast |                  |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
|                      | 1930         | 1931         | 1930                     | 1931       | 1930                | 1931             |
|                      | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Bu.</i>               | <i>Bu.</i> | <i>1,000 Bu.</i>    | <i>1,000 Bu.</i> |
| Massachusetts .....  | 700          | 500          | 135                      | 125        | 94                  | 62               |
| New York .....       | 4,770        | 4,290        | 115                      | 120        | 549                 | 515              |
| Ohio .....           | 7,000        | 5,600        | 74                       | 70         | 518                 | 392              |
| Indiana .....        | 12,500       | 8,550        | 68                       | 55         | 850                 | 470              |
| Illinois .....       | 1,400        | 1,400        | 40                       | 50         | 56                  | 70               |
| Michigan .....       | 30,000       | 22,800       | 51                       | 50         | 1,530               | 1,140            |
| Wisconsin .....      | 19,000       | 15,000       | 58                       | 50         | 1,102               | 750              |
| Minnesota .....      | 4,500        | 3,000        | 52                       | 55         | 234                 | 165              |
| Iowa .....           | 4,000        | 3,400        | 49                       | 35         | 196                 | 119              |
| Missouri .....       | 2,800        | 1,680        | 27                       | 20         | 76                  | 34               |
| Maryland .....       | 2,160        | 1,910        | 62                       | 100        | 134                 | 191              |
| Virginia .....       | 1,350        | 680          | 52                       | 100        | 70                  | 68               |
| Kentucky .....       | 1,500        | 1,350        | 54                       | 50         | 81                  | 68               |
| Mississippi .....    | 7,100        | 4,680        | 35                       | 60         | 248                 | 281              |
| Louisiana .....      | 1,600        | 860          | 40                       | 44         | 64                  | 38               |
| Texas .....          | 3,000        | 1,200        | 25                       | 30         | 75                  | 36               |
| Colorado .....       | 2,800        | 2,200        | 130                      | 108        | 364                 | 238              |
| Washington .....     | 700          | 500          | 160                      | 150        | 112                 | 75               |
| Oregon .....         | 2,000        | 1,270        | 142                      | 150        | 293                 | 190              |
| California .....     | 3,440        | 2,800        | 176                      | 166        | 605                 | 465              |
| Other states * ..... | 4,066        | 4,160        | 74                       | 65         | 345                 | 270              |
| U. S. total .....    | 117,040      | 87,830       | 64.9                     | 64.2       | 7,506               | 5,637            |

\* "Other states" include Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

#### Tomatoes

The forecast of production of tomatoes for manufacture, based upon reported condition and probable yield per acre on September 15, is 41 per cent below the estimated production in 1930 and is 18 per cent below the five-year average production for the period 1925-1929. Indicated production is now 1,066,900 tons compared with 1,815,500 tons in 1930 and with an average production of 1,297,000 tons for the five years preceding 1930.

The indicated average yield per acre is 3.65 tons compared with 4.48 tons in 1930 and with a five-year average of 4.36 tons.

Unusually hot weather in September, following the heavy rains and storms during the latter half of August, has caused further reduction in reported crop prospects in many areas. With unfavorable growing conditions during mid-season, when the extreme heat and lack of moisture caused a comparatively light set of fruit, the crop as a whole has had little chance

of recovery during the past four or five weeks. The crop in most areas has been adversely affected by one or more of the following factors: extreme heat, heavy rains, storms, alternate periods of rainy weather and high temperatures, and lack of irrigation water.

The table below gives, by states, the estimates of planted acreage, indicated yield per acre and forecast of production in 1931 compared with harvested acreage, yield per acre and estimated production in 1930.

| State          | Acreage              |                      | Yield Per Acre Indicated |                     | Production Forecast |                     |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|                | 1930<br><i>Acres</i> | 1931<br><i>Acres</i> | 1930<br><i>Tons</i>      | 1931<br><i>Tons</i> | 1930<br><i>Tons</i> | 1931<br><i>Tons</i> |
| New York       | 15,500               | 12,100               | 5.0                      | 7.0                 | 77,500              | 84,700              |
| New Jersey     | 43,000               | 31,000               | 6.0                      | 4.0                 | 258,000             | 124,000             |
| Pennsylvania   | 5,400                | 4,300                | 3.0                      | 3.5                 | 16,200              | 15,000              |
| Ohio           | 12,400               | 9,900                | 5.4                      | 5.4                 | 67,000              | 53,500              |
| Indiana        | 79,000               | 64,000               | 5.0                      | 3.5                 | 395,000             | 224,000             |
| Illinois       | 6,500                | 4,500                | 3.2                      | 3.5                 | 20,800              | 15,800              |
| Michigan       | 2,600                | 2,000                | 5.4                      | 5.5                 | 14,000              | 11,000              |
| Iowa           | 6,400                | 6,400                | 5.0                      | 3.8                 | 32,000              | 24,300              |
| Missouri       | 28,000               | 20,230               | 2.1                      | 2.2                 | 60,700              | 44,500              |
| Delaware       | 14,000               | 11,800               | 3.4                      | 2.6                 | 47,600              | 30,700              |
| Maryland       | 48,900               | 39,000               | 3.1                      | 2.4                 | 151,600             | 99,000              |
| Virginia       | 15,500               | 10,800               | 2.8                      | 2.0                 | 43,400              | 21,600              |
| Kentucky       | 8,430                | 5,900                | 2.6                      | 3.0                 | 21,900              | 17,700              |
| Tennessee      | 14,000               | 9,800                | 2.4                      | 2.3                 | 33,600              | 22,500              |
| Mississippi    | 3,550                | 2,130                | 3.1                      | 2.5                 | 11,000              | 5,300               |
| Arkansas       | 28,000               | 16,800               | 2.1                      | 2.5                 | 58,800              | 42,000              |
| Colorado       | 2,500                | 2,800                | 8.5                      | 6.5                 | 21,200              | 18,200              |
| Utah           | 8,200                | 6,640                | 6.8                      | 8.0                 | 55,800              | 53,100              |
| California     | 52,250               | 23,160               | 7.6                      | 6.0                 | 397,100             | 139,000             |
| Other states * | 9,790                | 8,800                | 3.3                      | 3.0                 | 32,300              | 26,400              |
| U. S. total    | 404,820              | 292,060              | 4.48                     | 3.65                | 1,815,500           | 1,066,900           |

\* "Other states" include Connecticut, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

#### Kraut Cabbage

The forecast of production of cabbage for kraut, based upon reported condition and probable yield per acre on September 15, is 35 per cent below the estimated production in 1930. A total production of 140,500 tons is now indicated compared with 215,000 tons produced in 1930 and with a five year average production of 138,840 tons for the period 1925-1929.

The indicated yield per acre is somewhat below the light yield of last year and is considerably smaller than the five-year average. Reports indicate that New York and Ohio have prospects for relatively good yields on the acreage planted. In Wisconsin, Michigan and other areas, however, yields on the early crop are reported as very low, due to drouth damage. The late crop in these sections is more promising, but expected yields are still relatively low.

The table below gives, by states, estimated acreage (both contract and open market), indicated yield per acre and the forecast of production of



1931 compared with harvested acreage, yield per acre and estimated production in 1930.

| State           | Acreage       |               | Yield per Acre<br>Indicated |              | Production<br>Forecast |              |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                 | 1930<br>Acres | 1931<br>Acres | 1930<br>Tons                | 1931<br>Tons | 1930<br>Tons           | 1931<br>Tons |
| New York ....   | 9,000         | 5,800         | 8.0                         | 8.5          | 72,000                 | 49,300       |
| Ohio .....      | 3,300         | 2,310         | 5.8                         | 6.0          | 19,100                 | 20,800       |
| Indiana .....   | 1,400         | 1,200         | 6.4                         | 6.4          | 9,000                  | 8,100        |
| Illinois .....  | 800           | 720           | 7.8                         | 6.0          | 6,200                  | 4,300        |
| Michigan .....  | 2,030         | 1,520         | 6.6                         | 6.8          | 13,400                 | 10,300       |
| Wisconsin ..... | 7,200         | 5,330         | 9.0                         | 5.8          | 64,800                 | 30,900       |
| Minnesota ..... | 540           | 380           | 7.8                         | 4.8          | 4,200                  | 1,800        |
| Colorado .....  | 500           | 500           | 11.5                        | 7.0          | 5,800                  | 3,500        |
| Washington ..   | 320           | 200           | 9.0                         | 7.5          | 2,900                  | 1,500        |
| Other States*,  | 2,520         | 1,060         | 7.0                         | 6.0          | 17,900                 | 10,000       |
| U. S. Total..   | 27,610        | 19,080        | 7.79                        | 7.14         | 215,000                | 140,500      |

\* "Other States" include Arkansas, California, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia.

#### DO NOT DEPEND ON HINDSIGHT

An incident recently reported to the Association seems to justify a word of caution to canners who are anxious to make sales. There always have been, and probably always will be, a certain number of individuals and firms who are as ready to evade payment of bills as they are to place orders. Selling to them is less profitable than giving to charity, for usually good money is sent after bad in an attempt to recover some part of the loss.

It's not only good sense, but sound business, to investigate a prospective buyer's character and ability to pay, not after but before goods are placed in his hands.

#### WEATHER CONDITIONS

Aside from the abnormal heat, especially through the interior of the country, the outstanding feature of the weather during the week ended September 22 was the helpful moisture received over large portions of the Northwest where severely droughty conditions have prevailed. The Weather Bureau's report for the week states in part:

The average temperatures for the week ending September 22, in different portions of the country, were very similar to those for the preceding week, with abnormal warmth practically everywhere, except in the far Western States, where moderately low temperatures for the season were experienced in many places. This made the third consecutive warm week, and for a period of three weeks in September temperatures have been remarkably high in many places.

Rainfall was rather frequent, with many stations from northwestern Oklahoma, Kansas, and northern Missouri northward reporting generous amounts, and also from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward to the

Atlantic Ocean. In addition there were some good showers in the upper Ohio Valley. Elsewhere east of the Rocky Mountains the weather was mostly fair, and only light, local showers occurred, with many sections of the South having a rainless week.

### TRUCK CROP MARKETS

Total movement of 34 fruits and vegetables increased during the week ended September 19 to 19,550 cars, as against 25,430 carloads during the corresponding period last season. Tomato shipments, chiefly from New York, Ohio, Indiana, Colorado and California, totaled 575 cars, compared with 1,210 a year ago.

#### CARLOT SHIPMENTS

| Commodity             | Sept.<br>13-19<br>1931 | Sept.<br>6-12<br>1931 | Sept.<br>14-20<br>1930 | Total<br>this season<br>thru<br>Sept. 19 | Total<br>last season<br>thru<br>Sept. 20 | Total<br>last<br>season |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|
| Apples, total         | 3,118                  | 1,849                 | 3,147                  | 11,165                                   | 13,388                                   | 109,801                 |
| Eastern states        | 1,796                  | 1,128                 | 1,595                  | 6,303                                    | 7,700                                    | 43,259                  |
| Western states        | 1,322                  | 721                   | 1,552                  | 4,862                                    | 5,688                                    | 66,542                  |
| Beans, snap and lima  | 12                     | 15                    | 14                     | 8,753                                    | 9,023                                    | 9,559                   |
| Beets                 | 8                      | 5                     | ...                    | 1,543                                    | ...                                      | ...                     |
| Cabbage               | 444                    | 458                   | 691                    | 22,940                                   | 20,734                                   | 38,319                  |
| Carrots               | 97                     | 59                    | 104                    | 9,246                                    | 10,004                                   | 12,434                  |
| Cauliflower           | 186                    | 137                   | 117                    | 870                                      | 1,031                                    | 9,615                   |
| Cucumbers             | 43                     | 75                    | 127                    | 6,156                                    | 7,093                                    | 7,093                   |
| Mixed deciduous fruit | 104                    | 177                   | 259                    | 3,244                                    | 5,139                                    | 5,921                   |
| Mixed vegetables      | 400                    | 347                   | 498                    | 22,734                                   | 24,544                                   | 31,180                  |
| Peaches               | 646                    | 1,253                 | 1,104                  | 45,030                                   | 37,890                                   | 38,490                  |
| Pears                 | 1,128                  | 1,207                 | 2,376                  | 14,326                                   | 19,764                                   | 28,835                  |
| Pears, green:         |                        |                       |                        |  |  |                         |
| Domestic              | 74                     | 31                    | 78                     | 6,432                                    | 6,363                                    | 6,800                   |
| Imports               | 5                      | 5                     | ...                    | 33                                       | 24                                       | 25                      |
| Peppers               | 25                     | 8                     | 35                     | 2,615                                    | 2,260                                    | 2,786                   |
| Plums and prunes      | 472                    | 682                   | 716                    | 5,844                                    | 8,426                                    | 8,716                   |
| Spinach               | 10                     | 3                     | 5                      | 9,408                                    | 9,430                                    | 9,636                   |
| Tomatoes              | 573                    | 603                   | 1,214                  | 23,724                                   | 27,082                                   | 34,050                  |

### BUSINESS INDICATORS

(Weeks ended Saturday; weekly average 1923-1925=100)

|                                   | 1931     |          |         | 1930     |          |         |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
|                                   | Sept. 19 | Sept. 12 | Sept. 5 | Sept. 20 | Sept. 13 | Sept. 6 |
| General business:                 |          |          |         |          |          |         |
| New York Times                    | ...      | 69.8     | *69.6   | 85.2     | 86.4     | 86.5    |
| Business Week                     | ...      | 70.7     | *72.2   | 85.6     | 84.1     | 83.5    |
| Freight car loadings              | ...      | 69.6     | 79.2    | 99.3     | 100.7    | 89.3    |
| Wholesale prices (Fisher's):      |          |          |         |          |          |         |
| All commodities                   | 69.0     | 68.9     | 68.9    | 83.6     | 83.4     | 83.5    |
| Agricultural products             | ...      | 55.9     | 56.4    | 87.1     | 87.1     | 87.0    |
| Non-agricultural products         | ...      | 72.2     | 72.2    | 80.9     | 80.9     | 81.3    |
| Bank debits outside New York City | 94.7     | 63.1     | 82.8    | 116.0    | 99.8     | 94.1    |
| Bond prices                       | 101.4    | 103.3    | 104.2   | 108.7    | 108.6    | 108.6   |
| Stock prices                      | 107.3    | 115.6    | 123.8   | 203.8    | 210.5    | 208.0   |
| Interest rates:                   |          |          |         |          |          |         |
| Call money                        | 36.4     | 36.4     | 36.4    | 54.5     | 60.6     | 58.2    |
| Time money                        | 34.3     | 40.0     | 40.0    | 74.3     | 75.4     | 74.3    |
| Business failures                 | 104.7    | 97.3     | 113.8   | 122.1    | 113.8    | 82.6    |

\* Revised.

a Relative to a computed normal taken as 100.



## CAR LOADINGS

|                                    | Total     | Miscellaneous | Merchandise<br>L. C. L. | Other   |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Week ended September 12 . . . . .  | 667,750   | 251,413       | 187,045                 | 228,692 |
| Preceding week . . . . .           | 759,546   | 279,301       | 218,231                 | 262,014 |
| Corresponding week, 1930 . . . . . | 965,813   | 386,267       | 218,231                 | 361,315 |
| Corresponding week, 1929 . . . . . | 1,153,274 | 467,004       | 200,387                 | 416,193 |

### FOOD OFFICIALS ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON MAPES LAW, SLACK FILL, AND CORN SUGAR

At the recent annual conference of the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials held in West Baden, resolutions on several subjects of particular interest to the canning industry were adopted, among which were the following:

Whereas, the development and growth of the canned food industry is a matter of interest and importance to the people of our country. Food officials are awake to the splendid progress made in this great industry and are sympathetic with any movement which will secure for the people a better quality of canned foods, be it therefore

Resolved that the members of this Association study carefully the workings of the McNary-Mapes law with the express purpose of putting its provisions into effect within the states,—this to be done by new legislation or by regulation, as conditions may warrant.

Whereas, during the 71st Congress the "slack fill" bill failed of passage and

Whereas, this Association in the past has expressed its approval of such legislation, therefore be it

Resolved that this Association reaffirm its endorsement of any legislation designed to make the practice of selling slack filled packages illegal.

Whereas, the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, charged with the duty of protecting the public against the adulteration or misbranding of food and drugs, has on previous occasions and consistently expressed its unalterable opposition to efforts put forth by some to break down our food laws and has opposed vigorously new legislation or department rulings which would authorize the substitution of one food product for another without adequate labeling and

Whereas since our last meeting Congress having failed to act on proposed legislation permitting such substitution and an administrative ruling has nullified the action of the Federal Law as regards a single product, therefore be it

Resolved that this Association deploras that circumstances has caused this administrative ruling and that this controversial question could not have been presented to the Courts; and further be it

Resolved that the state members of this Association personally oppose legislation or rulings of any type tending to break down the principle that substitutions of a harmless type must be made known to the consumer by appropriate labeling.

### PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

The statistical position of condensed and evaporated milk (case goods) on September 1, as shown by reports to the Bureau

of Agricultural Economics from firms operating 99 per cent of the total case goods factories, was as follows:

|                                       | 1931<br><i>Pounds</i> | 1930<br><i>Pounds</i> | Change<br><i>Pct.</i> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total stocks, September 1 (42 firms): |                       |                       |                       |
| Evaporated milk                       | 181,745,329           | 244,958,547           | -25.81                |
| Condensed milk                        | 22,504,100            | 30,875,320            | -27.12                |
| Total production, August (40 firms):  |                       |                       |                       |
| Evaporated milk                       | 92,154,448            | 114,339,557           | -19.4                 |
| Condensed milk                        | 6,353,526             | 7,158,190             | -11.24                |

#### POULTRY USED IN CANNING

The U. S. Market News Service reports the quantity of poultry used in canning as follows, the figures for drawn poultry having been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing:

|  | Quantities<br>reported to<br>date for<br>Aug.<br>1931 | Same-firm comparison |               |                |                |
|--|---|----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|  |   | August,<br>1931      | July,<br>1931 | August<br>1931 | August<br>1930 |
|  | <i>Pounds</i>   | <i>Pounds</i>        | <i>Pounds</i> | <i>Pounds</i>  | <i>Pounds</i>  |
| Dressed poultry canned or<br>used in canning | 1,306,395   | 1,364,395            | 1,015,410     | 1,304,157      | 2,025,666      |
| Drawn poultry canned or<br>used in canning   | 227,908   | 227,908              | 316,031       | 173,174        | 645,777        |
| Total  | 1,504,303   | 1,592,303            | 1,331,441     | 1,477,331      | 2,671,443      |
| Number of firms reporting                    | 34  | 31                   | 31            | 26             | 26             |

#### CALIFORNIA PEACH PACK

The 1931 peach pack in California, it is announced, will be approximately 8,350,000 cases, basis of No. 2½'s. This figure includes 475,000 cases of No. 10's packed for remanufacture into fruits for salads. The total pack in 1930 was 13,173,703 cases.

#### JAPANESE CANNED CRAB AND SALMON PACK

A radiogram to the Department of Commerce from the American commercial attache at Tokyo states that this season's canned crab pack is estimated at 350,000 cases, and that the total packed to September 10 was 289,000 cases. The salmon pack is estimated only slightly below that of last year.

Stocks of canned crab meat held in warehouses in Japan increased from 232,071 cases on June 30 to 246,158 cases on July 31. Of the exports of canned crab meat from Japan for the period January 1 to August 20, inclusive, amounting to 265,586 cases, 169,251 cases were shipped to the United States.

#### IMPORTS OF TOMATO PRODUCTS

Imports of canned tomatoes during August were about the same as last month, although much heavier than in August a year ago. Tomato paste imports during August, however,

doubled those of July, being about 2,000,000 pounds greater than imports for August last year. The following table, compiled from figures issued by the Statistical Division of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, shows a comparison of the imports of canned tomatoes and tomato paste for the first eight months of 1930 and 1931:

| 1930     | Canned Tomatoes |           | Tomato Paste |           |
|----------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
|          | Pounds          | Value     | Pounds       | Value     |
| January  | 8,939,178       | \$427,845 | 1,635,360    | \$129,824 |
| February | 5,834,313       | 283,425   | 1,050,583    | 88,842    |
| March    | 2,902,848       | 139,808   | 658,934      | 53,743    |
| April    | 5,425,074       | 291,292   | 932,968      | 85,269    |
| May      | 6,453,591       | 308,250   | 2,368,368    | 246,670   |
| June     | 648,681         | 25,063    | 456,605      | 43,731    |
| July     | 326,151         | 23,163    | 310,481      | 27,343    |
| August   | 125,402         | 4,559     | 570,633      | 56,211    |
| Total    | 30,655,238      | 1,503,405 | 7,983,941    | 729,593   |
| 1931     |                 |           |              |           |
| January  | 5,611,727       | 198,377   | 796,143      | 62,736    |
| February | 7,375,831       | 235,570   | 873,380      | 75,763    |
| March    | 7,000,827       | 243,769   | 907,242      | 66,645    |
| April    | 9,932,389       | 364,172   | 1,642,420    | 149,668   |
| May      | 8,092,003       | 280,368   | 853,333      | 68,233    |
| June     | 5,517,949       | 201,246   | 1,047,352    | 88,704    |
| July     | 3,471,766       | 125,836   | 1,129,606    | 84,819    |
| August   | 3,579,515       | 124,599   | 2,564,658    | 218,210   |
| Total    | 50,582,007      | 1,782,937 | 9,914,137    | 814,778   |

#### JAPANESE BEETLE QUARANTINE HEARING

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced today that during the summer specimens of the Japanese beetle have been taken at Charleston, S. C., and at Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio, and that a public hearing to consider the advisability of extending the Japanese beetle quarantine to those states would be held in Washington, in the auditorium of the National Museum, at 10 a. m., October 8, 1931. The hearing will be before the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The present area quarantined on account of the Japanese beetle includes parts or all of the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

#### EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST

Employment and pay-roll totals in August, as compared with July, based on returns made by 46,917 establishments in 15 major industrial groups having in August 4,853,275 employees whose combined earnings in one week were \$105,527,491, show a decrease of 0.3 per cent in employment from July

to August and a decrease of 1.1 per cent in earnings. Increased employment in August was shown in 3 of the 15 industrial groups: Anthracite mining, 3.4 per cent; bituminous coal mining, 0.8 per cent; and canning and preserving, 39.8 per cent. Decreased employment was shown in each of the remaining 12 groups.

#### SIAMESE IMPORTS OF SARDINES DECLINE

During the first half of 1931 imports of sardines into Bangkok, which receives about 15 per cent of the total imports of this product into Siam, totaled 698,237 pounds valued at \$42,096, as compared with 3,638,419 pounds valued at \$272,656 for the first half of 1930.

The most important reason for this drop, according to Bangkok importers, is the new duty on sardines, effective February 2, 1931, which increased the rate from 5 to 20 per cent ad valorem. When this rate was first placed into effect many of the local dealers believed that the increase would have only a temporary effect, but it now appears that it will be some time before the sardine business reaches its former volume. This decline affects the United States a great deal more than any other country because most of the sardines are of American origin.

#### CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK CONSUMPTION

Increased per capita consumption of butter, cheese, condensed and evaporated milk, and a slight decrease in consumption of ice cream, are reported for the year 1930 as compared with 1929 by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Per capita consumption of condensed and evaporated milk is estimated at 16.61 pounds in 1930 against 16.58 pounds in 1929. In 1917 the estimated per capita consumption was 10.49 pounds.

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